Railway Wheel Manufacturing Factory at Chhapra

†2157. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an announcement was made to set up Railway wheel manufacturing factory in Chhapra, Bihar;

(b) the progress of this factory;

(c) by when it would be completed; and

(d) whether it is a fact that thousands of tonnes of scrap of Railway Department has to be brought to this factory which is under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. An announcement to set up a wheel-manufacturing factory in Chhapra, Bihar was made in the Railway Budget 2004-05.

(b) The project has been sanctioned. Procedure for acquisition of required land has started. Consultancy contract for detailed design has been awarded.

(c) It is planned to be completed by January 2010.

(d) After the factory achieves a production level of 50000 wheels per annum, 32000 tonnes of railway scrap (approx.) will have to be transported to this factory per year.

Survey of Haldibari-Mekhliganj rail line

2158. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey work has started on the new line project from Haldibari to Mekhliganj in West Bengal;

(b) if so, by when the survey would be completed; and

(c) whether Changrabandha has been included in the project?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However is likely to be completed during 2006-07.

(c) No, Sir.

Tender for purchase of cranes

†2159. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that tender documents for the purchase of advanced 'Gottwald' and 'Cowans Shildon' in Railways were given to foreign companies on 8th January, 1996, which were singed by 19 Railway officers;

(b) if so, the details of the cranes, their manufacturing company, time of their purchase and amount spent on their purchase respectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as far as quality of the cranes with regard to speed, efficiency and other merits is concerned, this was not as per stipulation;

(d) if so, the types of shortcomings found in them;

(e) the persons responsible for the same; and

(f) the action taken against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, Indian Railways had placed two orders for procurement of 140 Tonne Accident Relief Crane against a tender opened in February, 1996. One order for 8 cranes was placed on M/s Mannesman Gottald, Germany with total Free on Board (FOB) value as Deutsche Marks 24,905,184.20 and other order for 4 cranes was placed on M/s Rolls-Royce Power Engineering Plc., U.K. (erstwhile M/s Cowans Sheldon Ltd.) with total FOB value as UK Pound Sterling 5,423,442. The total landed cost of these 12 cranes was Rs. 150 crore approximately.

(c) No, Sir. The cranes conform to the contractual specifications.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.